



PREVENTION STARTS HERE.

July 18, 2005

Mike Gallagher  
Ecology PBT Coordinator  
Department of Ecology  
PO BOX 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

We are writing to you collectively from our temporary home in Ashford, Washington. We are here as participants in this year's "Climb Against the Odds," an annual mountain climb organized by the Breast Cancer Fund. We are celebrating the opening of our Washington office and are striving to bring attention to the worsening condition of our environment and its links to the epidemic of breast cancer.

To make our statement, this week we will attempt to summit Mt. Rainier. We don't take our task lightly because, for us, breast cancer is personal. We are extremely committed to increasing the public's awareness about health and environmental concerns, and the connection between the two.

We understand you are receiving comments about the PBT Program Rule, and we have a few thoughts to provide.

We are extremely alarmed by the rising rates of breast cancer. It is the most common cancer among women worldwide. During the past 60 years, the lifetime risk of breast cancer in the United States has more than tripled. In the 1940s, a woman's lifetime risk of breast cancer was one in 22. In 2005, it is one in seven and rising. Breast cancer is the leading cause of death in women ages 34 to 44.

Nationally this year, an estimated 211,000 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and another 58,000 will be diagnosed with in situ breast cancer. More than 40,000 women will die of breast cancer.

Washington State has the highest rate of breast cancer in the United States and no one knows why. This year, nearly 4,000 women in Washington state will be diagnosed with breast cancer and close to 800 women will die of the disease. Each one is one too many.

When all known risk factors and characteristics are added together, including family history, genetics, smoking and obesity, more than 50 percent of breast cancer cases remain unexplained. At the same time that breast cancer rates have tripled, an estimated 100,000 synthetic chemicals have been registered for use in the United States. Less than 10 percent of these chemicals have been fully tested for their effects on human health. Because many of these chemicals accumulate in body fat and remain in breast tissue for decades, every woman, man and child now carries synthetic chemicals—including some that have been found to induce mammary tumors in laboratory research—in their breasts and bodies.

The PBT Program Rule has great potential to begin to reverse the rates of breast cancer. Therefore, we ask you to consider making the following adjustments to the pending rule:

- 1) The PBT list must be as expansive as possible. The criteria for listing a chemical needs to be "persistence," "bioaccumulation" OR "toxicity." If these equally important criteria were combined, it is likely that some of the most dangerous chemicals will be overlooked and allowed to continue their pollution and devastation of our ecosystem.
- 2) The list must include phthalates. Many phthalates are known to disrupt hormonal processes, raising concern about their implications for increasing breast cancer risk.
- 3) Since we rely on our state agencies to protect human life, we believe this rule should take a precautionary approach. Research continues to show that PBTs are linked to harm of human health. Research also indicates that delay of action may cause irreparable damage to our children and developing adults. Therefore, it is imperative that this rule incorporate the precautionary principle to prevent harm before it happens.
- 4) The goal of a chemical action plan must be to eliminate the chemical. Each phase-out plan must study and recommend safer substitutes to using the chemical and also include clear timelines for completion.
- 5) The Legislature needs to remove the current exemption of pesticides and fertilizers from the rule, so that these harmful chemical ingredients can be addressed as part of the comprehensive PBT Program.
- 6) The Washington state departments of Ecology and Health need to work in close partnership when implementing the rule.

We have enclosed a copy of *State of the Evidence*, a synopsis of current research on the environmental links to breast cancer. We have also enclosed a white paper on the precautionary principle to help guide your revisions of the PBT Program Rule.

The state of Washington has tremendous potential to influence the direction that other states take with chemical reform. We encourage the Department of Ecology to proceed with leadership and commitment in setting a precedent for a healthy environment, reversing the incidence trends of devastating illnesses such as breast cancer.

In closing, we remind you that we are visiting Washington to climb Mt. Rainier. We climb to demonstrate to ourselves and to others our commitment to stand for a world in which cancer is a thing of the past. We stand for the health of our bodies and the health of our planet.

Thank you for considering our views when completing the important PBT Program Rule.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Rizzo, RN  
Executive Director  
Breast Cancer Fund

Pam Tazoli  
Washington Coordinator  
Breast Cancer Fund

Cathy Ann Payln Sausalito, California I Climb because  
it is unacceptable that women in America have a 1 in 7  
Chance of obtaining breast cancer.

MARY ANN CASTIMORE WALTHAM, VT  
19 YEAR BREAST CANCER ~~SURVIVOR~~ SURVIVOR I CLIMB  
IN HONOR OF MY FAMILY + FRIENDS WHO LIVE  
WITH THIS DISEASE, AND IN MEMORY OF THOSE  
WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES TO IT.

George Hall Jr. Uniontown Pennsylvania  
I'M HERE TO RAISE awareness in the prevention  
of all cancer. Including Breast Cancer.

Diane Matsumoto ANN ARBOR MICH.

I'm here as a continued supporter of the Breast  
Cancer Fund in its efforts to work towards  
the elimination of Breast cancer; in so doing we  
must look at prevention - I trust Washington  
State is behind this effort.

Kelsey Kerr: Pittsburgh, Pa

I'm here in support of my Mom and my Aunt,  
who are climbers. I'm also here in hope that  
neither me or my COUSINS have a gene for  
breast cancer, also I hope this money raised  
will help fund research for a cure and  
help in the environment which we are striving for.

Sydney Levitz  
TROY, MICHIGAN

I am climbing because  
of my sister who died  
from Breast Cancer -  
no known genetics.

Tim Kerr Pittsburgh, Pa  
Wife, Breast Cancer Survivor

Chris Kozlowski, Sol Lake Tahoe CA  
Climbing for my Grandmother + Friends  
with Breast Cancer + for our future.

Tamela Gorden Reno, NV  
I'm supporting my partner of  
21 years, who has battled  
breast cancer three times since 1998.

SHERPY MURR Reno, NV  
I'm a three time breast cancer survivor.

Shiori Hashimoto

Tokyo Japan  
Climbing for my best friend who  
passed away breast cancer and also  
climb with cancer survivor in my  
circle in Tokyo.

Jack Bell  
SAN FRANCISCO CA.

Climbing for women  
in my family who have  
died from Breast Cancer

Michael Kuey  
Half Moon Bay, CA  
I am climbing as behalf  
of Friends / Families  
who have battled with  
Breast Cancer.

LISA KRUEGER  
HALF MOON BAY, CA  
As a past 2 time  
climber. I  
climb for "40"  
of my dearest  
FRIENDS that  
have Breast  
Cancer!



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Hendy Dayton, San Francisco, California

I am a 45 y old breast cancer survivor with three children and many friends who are now facing their own cancer battles. We need to take action now to prevent the increase and devastation of cancer and to protect our environment so that our children and grandchildren will be able to live in a better, healthier world than we do.

Susan Kutner, MD San Francisco, CA

We all need to stand in partnership to confront the issues that threaten our health & environment.



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Inger Norman  
Tempe, AZ

I'm climbing for all  
cancers that I believe  
are caused by environmental  
toxins!

MEGHAN GIROUX  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

I CLIMB IN SUPPORT OF THE  
BREAST CANCER FUND'S MISSION  
TO ADVOCATE FOR THE ELIMINATION  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS. ~~THE BCF~~  
I RESPECT THAT TBCF IS USING  
BREAST CANCER AS A PLATFORM  
TO CHANGE PUBLIC POLICY. :)

Sibyl Diver  
Seattle, Washington

I am climbing because I  
believe we can make a  
difference step by step in  
eliminating the environmental  
causes of breast cancer.  
I am climbing in honor of  
my grandmother, my family  
member Kathryn + my  
friend Pamela, who have all  
been impacted by breast cancer.

Jamie Rosen Seattle, WA

I have lost my grandmother and many friends to breast cancer. I am an avid supporter!

Carolyn Subin Bedford, NY

I am a breast cancer survivor, a mother of 3 daughters a grandmother of 2 granddaughters and I want this disease to stop!

Celeste McInerney Los Gatos California

I AM A SURVIVOR & I CLIMB BECAUSE I WANT TO PREVENT THE NEXT PERSON FROM HEARING THESE WORDS, "IT'S CANCER!"

Julie Homan, Larkspur, CA

I am here to support a cancer-free environment. I believe we can do this through breast cancer prevention ~~and~~ by eliminating the environmental causes of this disease.

Iris Lancaster, Cement City, MI

I came to climb Mt. Rainier to add my voice to the concerned citizens who want & deserve an environment free of harmful chemicals. This is a true form of cancer prevention

Connie George, San Francisco, CA

I AM HERE AS THE CLIMB COORDINATOR OF THE CLIMB AGAINST THE ODDS ~ MT. RAINIER 2005 EXPEDITION TEAM. MY SOUL PURPOSE IS TO SUPPORT THE INCREDIBLY BRAVE, TALENTED CLIMBERS. YOU SHOULD DO NOTHING LESS.

Nancy N. Driscoll, Mt. Shasta, CA

I'm climbing because my mother died when I was 16 from breast cancer and I want a future ~~that~~ for others so no one loses their mom to breast cancer.

Tamar Meler, (Thaca NY.

I'm 25 and a 6 year cancer survivor. I strongly believe that people should not live in an environment in which they are exposed to chemicals & carcinogens without choice.

Grazina (Chris) Keeleef, Chicago IL

I'm climbing in memory of my mother, Marija Mozuraitis Abramavicius, an immigrant from Lithuania, who died in 1978 at age 59 from breast cancer and also for an aunt and two cousins who are survivors. My purpose is to raise awareness of the horrors of breast cancer among all segments of our cultures and to support efforts to identify the causes of this dread disease so that this and future generations will not experience the devastation the disease causes to its victims and their families and friends.



Linda Kaczmar 7yr Survivor  
(2003 Shastachimber) South Lake Tahoe,  
California

Linda Chitwood - Mt. Shasta, CA.

I am climbing Mt. Rainier for all  
of the amazing, loving, talented people who  
have touched my life - who have had to  
face this devastating disease - I am climbing  
for future generations so they will not  
have to live with the fear of breast cancer!

- Carol J. Kronenwetter  
Mill Valley, CA

CAROL J. KRONENWETTER  
MILL VALLEY, CA

I am a breast  
H.D. cancer survivor +  
support all efforts to  
eliminate toxins from  
our environment.

- Aaron Lanes, Mill Valley CA I am climbing  
with my mother  
Carol who is a breast  
Cancer survivor.

Chris Bettencourt, Oakland, CA

I CLIMB IN THE HOPE THAT  
ONE DAY NOBODY WILL SUFFER  
BREAST CANCER - OR ANY OTHER  
DISEASE FOR THAT MATTER - FROM  
ENTIRELY PREVENTABLE CAUSES!

Robert E. Kelley, Jr. Chicago, IL

I CAME TO SUPPORT THIS GROUP,  
INCLUDING MY WIFE, TO SUPPORT  
STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE  
WORK AND LAWS TO ELIMINATE  
DESTRUCTIVE CHEMICALS AND PRE-  
VENT THEIR KNOWN AND HIDDEN  
EFFECTS ON PEOPLE AND OUR  
ENVIRONMENT - IN WHICH WE  
TRY TO RAISE HEALTHY PEOPLE.

GALEN NOURJIAN BASALT, COLORADO

I LOST MY MOTHER TO  
BREAST CANCER.

1. Linda DiLello Morton - Sun Valley, Idaho - Breast Cancer Fund climber and supporter  
*Linda DiLello Morton* - Please do the right thing.
2. PATTI ROSENTHAL - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF - BCF SUPPORTER  
*Patti Rosenthal* I would like to live without fear of breast cancer!
3. Peter Rosenthal - San Francisco, CA - Breast Cancer Fund climber  
*Peter Rosenthal* - Help Make The Environment Safer for All of US.
4. ERIN ABLER - PORTLAND, OREGON - Help change the public mindset from reaction to prevention.
5. Glenda Gutierrez - San Francisco, CA - Breast Cancer Fund supporter  
- Prevent the seventh woman acquiring this disease